

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

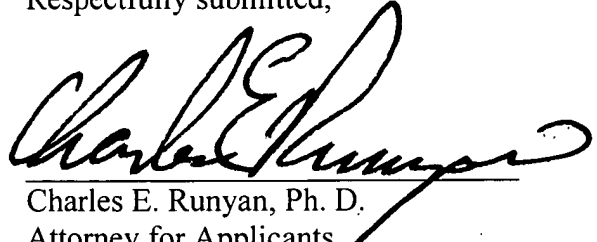
- Claims 3, 4, 6-18, 20-26, and 31-33 are pending.
- Claims 3, 4, 6-18, 20-26, and 31-33 are rejected.

Applicants have removed "a fixing device having a fixing belt and a pressure belt" from the instant claims. This amendment overcomes the instant rejection under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. Since this is the only outstanding claim rejection, all claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant have also corrected a typographical error in Claim 18, as shown above. Support for the corrected value is found in the specification, as filed, on page 121, two lines up from the bottom of the page. Therefore, this amendment adds no new matter.

Since all claims are in a condition for allowance, please issue a Notice of Allowability so stating. If I can be of any help, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles E. Runyan, Ph. D.
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,066

Date: 20 January 2004

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
One Maritime Plaza
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111
Facsimile (415) 393-9887
Telephone (415) 954-0235
crunyan@ssd.com